

Behavior Treatment Overview

The preamble of the attached MDHHS Technical Requirement states:

- It is the expectation of the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services (MDHHS) that all public mental health agencies shall have policies and procedures for intervening with an individual receiving public mental health services who exhibits seriously aggressive, self-injurious or other behaviors that place the individual or others at risk of harm.
- Further, MDHHS will not tolerate violence perpetrated on the individuals served by the public mental health system in the name of intervening when individuals exhibit certain potentially harmful behaviors.

The policies and procedures are designed to create a system of care that will engender a sense of personal safety and trust and allow individuals to participate to their desired extent in the community. Such an environment is created by properly assessing the intent of any challenging behavior to determine the pattern and purpose, or “function” of particular behaviors. The focus is to identify biological, medical, social, affective, environmental, and trauma-based factors or events that initiate, sustain, or end a behavior. Then it is possible to develop an effective and efficient behavior plan.

In 2014, MDHHS instituted a standard reporting format to capture key health and safety information about individuals being served on the Waivers. The template has not been revised and is provided below.

CMHSPs have the responsibility to survey the stakeholders in behavior planning—individuals served, family members, guardians, and residential staff --as to the effectiveness of the process of developing the behavior plans and the impact of the plan in terms of allowing more active participation in the community. This survey is conducted by the behavior treatment teams every other year and will be completed and reported for FY19 and again in FY21.